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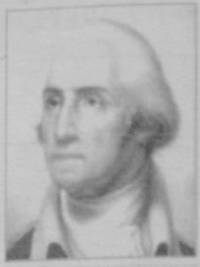
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GW Law Professor Receives ABA's First-Ever Sharon Corbitt Award

BY LAUREN SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

On July 30, 2009, the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic Violence made Professor Joan Meier the inaugural recipient of its Sharon Corbitt Award for "exemplary legal service to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking."

The award is named for the late Sharon L. Corbitt, who served both as a member of the ABA's Commission on Domestic Violence and as Chair of the ABA's Family Law Section, and who worked tirelessly for victims of domestic violence throughout her legal career. The ABA created this award last year to recognize lawyers who embody Ms. Corbitt's spirit and dedication to this area of the law.

It is unlikely that many legal professionals have demonstrated as much spirit and dedication to victims of domestic violence as has Professor Joan Meier. Throughout her distinguished career, Meier has devoted her work to providing legal assistance to domestic violence victims, which is a service these victims always need but can rarely afford.

In her more than fifteen years as a professor of clinical law at GW,



Professor Meier has founded three interdisciplinary domestic violence clinical programs, including The Domestic Violence Advocacy Project and The Domestic Violence Emergency Department Clinic, which offer free legal representation, advocacy, and counseling to victims of domestic violence. She has written extensively on the subject and has received numerous awards for her work.

In 2003, Professor Meier founded the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, or DV LEAP, the sole organization in the country providing pro bono expert ap-

pellate legal representation for domestic violence victims. Meier considers this her greatest achievement. "[The program] has made it possible to achieve some really significant victories in domestic violence litigation, including some significant education of the Supreme Court on the subject, and some fabulous decisions in state courts of appeal," Meier said of DV LEAP. "And it has begun to empower the field, and many lawyers and advocates in the field, by being a 'stronger voice for justice.'" To date, DV LEAP has participated in five U.S. Supreme Court cases and will submit a brief for another this term.

Professor Meier was first drawn to the domestic violence field during her law school days at the University of Chicago. During those "dark ages" as she calls them, "domestic violence was not a familiar concept in society." Over the years, the field has evolved, and much awareness has been raised on the subject. However, Meier is the first to say that work remains to be done. "One of the difficult parts of doing this kind of work is that over the years you find yourself watching the legal system backslide from

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Students Face Challenging Job Market, Fewer Prospects in Fall Recruiting

BY TIMOTHY FREY
Staff Writer

Summer has ended and classes have resumed, which can only mean one thing for law students: time to find a job for next summer. The Fall Recruiting Program is once again in full swing, and both second and third year law students are busy posting resumes, writing cover letters, and donning their finest suit for a trip to St. Gregory's.

However, the market this year is not quite the same as it has been in the past. A recent article in the New York Times suggested that students are facing "the most wrenching job search season in 50 years." Many large law firms that previously hired law students for their summer programs are not doing so, or doing so sparingly. The Times reports that not only has this made it difficult for many people to get interviews with large firms, it has also had a trickle down impact upon other legal job mar-

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School Portal Gets a New Facelift

BY DENISE L. TURNER
Staff Writer

On Monday, August 17, GW Law traded in its old Portal for a newer model. It came as a shock to many when, instead of finding the familiar logon screen of the old portal, they were met with a new pop-up login box requesting their username and password. Once past this new login process, students were met with a sleek new portal design with tabs across the top and the side, instead of a long list of links on the side. The new portal also puts students' classes at the forefront, whereas they too, used to be a series of links on the side bar. The look and feel of the new portal is impressive, but why the switch?

SBA President John Sorrenti provided some of his thoughts on the change: "I think there were some concerns with

the old portal that it just listed a number of announcements in a long list and many of them went unread. I know with the new one and its filtering capability the school hoped to allow students some more abil-

*The new software will
allow the IT department
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improvements to the
portal faster.*

ity to manage the announcements. I also think the old portal was a bit, well, old and the school wanted to update it, but that

is just a guess. If you notice, however, the school has been slowly revamping all their online resources, starting with the Law School website, then the University itself revamped one of its websites, and now the portal. I suspect this was in the works for a little while." Sorrenti's comments definitely make sense from a user perspective, but what about from a technology perspective?

According to Mike Briggs, Director of Information Technology at the Law School, there were several technological reasons for moving to the new portal. One reason, Briggs explained, was that "[w]e needed to switch platforms to reduce development times." In non-IT language, this means that the software behind the old and new portals is differ-

ent, and that the new software will allow the IT department to make changes and improvements to the portal faster.

Another reason for moving to the new portal is that the IT department, and assumingly the school "wanted to use a product designed specifically for law schools. The new portal software is being adopted by many law schools." In discussing the benefits of the new portal, Briggs further explained, "The new portal rides on top of a new platform and software suite that is purpose[ly] built for law schools. This will allow us to share the burden of improvements as more schools adopt the technology. By not having to maintain the entire system ourselves, we should be able concentrate on adding

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OPINIONS

The Pulse Review: Palestinians Need Stronger Leadership to Achieve Lasting Peace

By ROBERT ROSE
Guest Columnist

The week of August 7th, Fatah, the de facto ruling party in the West Bank and internationally recognized leader of the Palestinian people, met in Bethlehem for its first party congress in 20 years. The conference was intended to rejuvenate the organization and to prove it is better capable to govern than its bitter rival, Hamas. Alas, if life for a Palestinians were not difficult enough, the Fatah congress has instead highlighted the improbability of real change coming to the Territories any time soon.

There are only two realistic alternatives for Palestinians wishing to express their desires at the ballot box. One choice is Hamas, an organization seemingly more interested in prodding Israel into war than achieving any lasting peace, and which has been pushing a "virtue campaign" in Gaza that has seen its security forces used in ways similar to Iran's Morality Police. The other choice is Fatah, an organization long criticized for being corrupt and ineffective, and that is for some Palestinians already discredited due simply to its closer ties with Israel.

Though the need for a Fatah rejuvenation is readily apparent, the experience has been far from a renewal. The first news coming out of the meeting was that Hamas had banned 400 Gazan Fatah delegates from attending. If anything, this inauspicious start was a

foreshadowing of the general arc of the meetings. Although numerous fault lines became apparent among Fatah's various factions, the main schism that appeared was between the so called "old guard" of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and his allies, and the younger generation whose lives have been shaped by the first and second "intifadas" against Israel. Meanwhile, some exiled Fatah members in attendance repeated a recent allegation that Abbas colluded with Israel to assassinate Yasser Arafat. These divisions were only exacerbated by Abbas's decision at the last minute to add 700 additional delegates of his own choosing to the list of congress invitees.

Unsurprisingly, these developments spell more trouble for the Palestinian people. On the issue of greatest importance to the region, accord between Israel and Palestine, Palestinians will either be represented by a party bent on Israel's destruction or one crippled by corruption and infighting. The lack of a credible negotiator means more security concerns for Israelis and a further and further off dream of economic development and statehood for the Palestinians. Such a climate is ideal for breeding desperation and extremism on both sides.

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What Does It Mean to Be "From" DC?

By KATHERINE MEREAND
Staff Writer

I am from Washington, DC. But what does that mean? It is something we can all disagree on.

I celebrated my decade inside the beltway this August, and I am excited because I feel I finally have some true "cred" for claiming to be from DC.

A city of so many transients, I'll venture to say that longer-term residents tend to belittle newcomers (read: residents of 6 or 8 years) insisting no one can claim to be from DC until they have been here...well, usually as many years as the belittler has been here. It is a pissing contest that even grandmothers might engage in with the impertinent upstart. You are forewarned.

Welcome to life inside the beltway, where politics and policies are often bandied as much or more as sports and the niches are small and messily overlapping. And while someone's expertise might be of great worth in their field, they stand an even chance of being snubbed if they are not of specific use to someone

else. Every bad thing you hear people say about DC is true, just in the end most of it isn't all that bad.

You may not plan to stick around, but you might as well get to know everyone while you are here. I did, and I love it for what it is. (Ignore it being conceivable that in a decade I lost the ability to talk to average Americans, forcing me to stay hidden in my bastion of safety with travel only to Europe.)

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As with every city, DC has many faces. In broad strokes, I have hewn the cultural morass into a few rather rough categories. DC, a primer:

**The young and the
hip**

University Life, quickly: "Gtown" is home of a good many libertarians, GW has the movers and shakers

for better or worse, AU doesn't like ambition to sully their intellectual integrity, everyone at Catholic is intensely nice, College Park is the heart of frat-dom, and

SBA CORNER

By THERESA BOWMAN
Vice President of First Year Students

For most of last week, hundreds of full-time, part-time, and LLM students poured into the law school looking for lockers, nametags and even fajitas. Especially the fajitas.

I'm willing to bet that all of them saw at least one of us: 60 blue-shirted 2L and 3L student volunteers doing everything from locker sales to tours to "sheparding" new student crowds from event to event.

This "army of almost lawyers" as one dean dubbed them, volunteered many hours to making orientation happen. 1Ls who choose to volunteer for orientation next year will appreciate how much work goes into making everything run smoothly. The volunteers handled everything with a great amount of humor and enthusiasm. Thanks so much to everyone who volunteered!!

So what was orientation week like? Any volunteer can tell you that a major part of the week was about answering questions. Hundreds of new students meant thousands of the same questions. They wanted to know about Journals, about Skills Boards, which Professors were the most intimidating, and whether law school really is like high school. It is by the way.

I have been told that students in the incoming class have, on average, the highest LSATs and GPAs this school has ever seen. However, after spending a week with many of them I think they may also be some of the funniest law students here. Before classrooms doors or westlaw accounts were even opened last week, many new students' seemed to have gotten a jumpstart on enthusiasm for all things law school-related.

In an email to new students



who signed up for the orientation week Scavenger Hunt, I billed the event as the first great 1L skills competition of the year. In a sense, I wasn't being dishonest. It was the first competition, it involved some skills, and I hoped it was going to be great. However, some students took a little too seriously my assurances that a scavenger hunt championship entailed lasting law school glory.

I received several emails earnestly asking for clarifications of minute details of certain scavenger hunt "policies and procedures." When the scavenger hunt got rained out, a dedicated group of students decided to have their own scavenger hunt. I didn't give out the actual list, so they simply made up their own and asked me for extra points should the great scavenger hunt be rescheduled. I said sure, they certainly earned the

points.

I was happy to see new students attending some of the events in great numbers. The new student meet and greets at Third Edition and Local 16 were packed and the first annual Softball on the Mall game had a huge turnout. I was even happier to see many students forego stress and anxiety for a little bit of fun before school starts.

As the SBA Vice President of First Year Students, one of my responsibilities will be planning more events for the 1Ls during the year. I'm looking forward to seeing 1Ls take advantage of SBA events during the year and injecting a little bit of fun into their first year of law school. Making time to escape from the law school library every once in a while is so important to staying sane. If orientation week was any indication, I think the new class is on the right track.

everything else is too far away to matter, though GMU will dislike that assertion. The atmosphere between the schools is, in fact, quite collegial.

Gay DC, many of whom are no longer young, rightly claims Dupont Circle for stomping grounds as you have no doubt heard, but really it is diluted and spills over several neighborhoods eastward as the young families roll in behind them with chain stores and strollers. The neighborhood lines are never fixed in DC.

Gentrifiers, often the post-college stroller wielders combined with the gay community, are fringing the edges to the east buying out neighborhoods and inspiring new business.

Mt. Pleasant, arguably the dying heart of the Hispanic community in DC, was recently gobbled up by gentrifiers. Where do those displaced go? No one knows exactly but most likely the suburbs.

Oh, and let's not forget the hippies. Takoma Park, MD, not to be confused with Takoma, DC, has many self-proclaimed hippies with a great farmer's market and active activism.

Official Washington

With Capitol Hill, everyone has preconceptions, but these are not incorrect. And yet, give the devil its due; it is half the reason everyone else is here. Torture your logic to follow the chain if you must, but most things in DC tie back to the goings on of the halls of Congress. Also in this mix you will find the higher level political appointees, the cabinet, the judiciary, the State Department, Breton Woods, the think tanks, lobbying groups, the media, the intelligentsia, the embassies and expats, and most of the lawyers, all catered to by the fantastic restaurant world and

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OPINIONS

"Clunkers" Program Inspires Little Faith in Government-Run Programs

BY RYAN BOWEN
Opinions Editor

We're all undoubtedly familiar with the government's now-expired "Cash for Clunkers" program, technically called "CARS" (probably named by the creative geniuses who brought you the "USA PATRIOT Act"). While it seems that the program was the one stimulus package that actually did some good (over 700,000 cars were sold), its overall economic impact is debatable. Approximately 60% of buyers during the program's operation were planning to buy a new car this year anyway. In essence then the Government handed out checks to roughly 420,000 people for doing something they would have done anyway. Additionally, the jobs created by the program will likely not last, since the demand levels are not sustainable without the government credits. Economic recovery aside, CARS gave us a good glimpse of how the government operates a new program. I found this

Economic recovery aside, CARS gave us a good glimpse of how the government operates a new program. I found this particularly helpful at time when people are furiously debating a government-run health plan.

particularly helpful at time when people are furiously debating a government-run health plan. The merits of such a system in its own right can be discussed at a later time. For now let's look at how the government might operate such a system, using CARS as an analogue.

A major issue with government health care is the cost. The President and his spend-happy friends in Congress, apparently paying little heed to those who borrowed too much in the pre-recession days and subsequently lost their homes, are slated to run up a deficit of \$9,000,000,000,000 over the next 10 years (pause for a second and let all those zeros sink in). For the first time in recent memory, the public is taking note of these

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*From the
Desk of the Editor*

IN DEFENSE OF "GUNNERS"

It's that time of year again. After a week of solid 1L silence in the hard lounge, the upper level students have descended on GW Law with a myriad of praise, complaints, and advice for their younger brothers and sisters in education. Among the wisdom concerning textbook purchases, when to outline, and do people really brief cases, there is an ideological battle that is at once familiar, provoking virulent reactions among the student divide – "The Gunner."

Probably one of the most overused phrases in law school, "The Gunner" is an almost universal fixture and figure in law school classrooms around the country. He or she is the student who loves to raise their hand, interject pointless ques-

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Practical Applications of the First Week of Law School

BY LIZ SAXE
Opinion Columnist

After my first week of legal study, it is with reluctant disappointment that I admit I am not yet prepared to be a lawyer. But that's not to say the first week of law school hasn't had a number of practical applications and benefits.

Some of those benefits I might be willing to go without – like the positive health benefits derived from lugging casebooks through city streets and around the metro, from the basement to the fourth floor, and everywhere in between. The first week also served some character-development purposes: A new kind of humility comes with lugging those casebooks through city streets and around the metro and everywhere in between. And I've found some of the lessons quite illuminating: I'm now convinced that the real purpose of the games section of the

LSAT was to prepare us for figuring out which of those casebooks to bring school, when we should bring them and in what order we should rotate them through our half lockers.

Beyond these physical and intellectual benefits, I've found some other practical applications to the first week of instruction. I have begun to endlessly analyze situations I encounter for their legal questions and implications.

How fortuitous, then, that after the second day of classes, whilst walking home, I was hit from behind by a small child on a scooter. My new, legally aware mind immediately flipped through the idea of an intentional tort – my mind raced through thoughts about the child's age,

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The 14th Amendment and the Right to Bare Breasts

BY HANNAH GEYER
Opinion Columnist

Any good law student knows that the Constitution protects our right to bear arms. But does it protect our right to bare breasts? Or rather, does it protect a woman's right to stroll about the streets as she pleases, shirt off? If you ask the women of GoTopless.org (no surfing the 'tubes in class, guys) they say it does.

In fact, on August 23rd, women in Miami, Hawaii, New York City, Chicago, Portland, Venice Beach, and Columbus, Ohio gathered together, shirts off, to prove this point: that the

14th Amendment of the United States Constitution protects a woman's right to do what men have been doing for years on end – enjoying a hot summer's day with as

few clothes on as possible. Some jurisdictions have recognized the hypocrisy of a law that allows men to do one thing, but criminalizes the exact same behavior in women; our very own Washington, D.C.,

for example, has been topless-friendly since a court ruling in 1986.

The 14th Amendment ensures that every person within the United States' jurisdiction will be subject to the equal protection of its laws, which, in theory means that a law cannot be applied to one demographic

group where it is not applied to another. Application of a law based on race, for instance, is subject to the highest level of judicial scrutiny there is: strict scrutiny.

In this instance, because laws prohibiting women from going topless are based on sex, a determination of the constitutionality of these laws would be analyzed under intermediate scrutiny, which requires that the government prove that the law in question furthers an important governmental interest that is furthered by

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From Russia, With Uncertainty

BY VADIM PARTIN
Opinion Columnist

"United forever in friendship and labor, our mighty republics will ever endure" is the beginning of the now infamous anthem of the erstwhile Soviet Union. Although the anthem, and the country which it represented are now gone, the music of the anthem was salvaged and replaced by new lyrics for the current Russian anthem. Although the current anthem of the Russian Federation remains, the author of its lyrics and the original Soviet lyrics, Sergey Mikhalkov, passed away a few days ago at the age of 96, having been alive both for the creation and the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Mikhalkov, was one of Stalin's favorite propaganda writers, and was awarded numerous prizes, but this article is not about him. It is about the country that embraced him, Russia, the same country from which I left for the United States in 1994, only three years after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Molded by peoples from Europe and Asia, Russia emerged first as its own power with an independent mindset. However, under the leadership of Peter the Great, Russia decided to look towards Europe for guidance and drastically revamped its political ideology. However, after a period of looking to Europe for guidance, Russia decided to try its own social experiment of Communism, which lasted for 70 years. It would seem that

after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia would join Europe and America as a natural ally due to its former history prior to the establishment of the Soviet Union. However, although it did seem that Russia was heading towards a rapprochement with the while I was still there, after a number of financial crises in the late 90s, it was the strongman, judo-fighting Vladimir Putin's turn to take the reigns from the often inebriated Yeltsin. Putin did put the country back on track with unprecedented economic growth during the early to mid 2000s.

By speaking with Russians and by reading Russian language news it seems

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The *Nota Bene* invites readers' opinions. Letters must be signed, dated and include a graduation year or title. E-mail submissions to notabene@law.gwu.edu

The *Nota Bene* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar, clarity and vulgarity.

FEATURES

No Loan-Rebate Splurges This Year

By JEREMIAH NEWHALL
Staff Writer

That time of year has come again – the season of ca-ching, when the university distributes loan rebate checks and every ramen-eating law student flirts fleetingly with affluence. Beginning August 31, 2L, 3L, and 4L students can pick up their rebate checks from the ground floor of Marvin Center. But GW law students are in no mood to splurge when they receive their loan rebate checks this year. With job competition tougher than ever before, many students are realizing they'll need to stretch that loan money further than in years past.

Forget trips to the fashion mall. At GW Law, thrifty is the new black.

Past talk of shopping sprees and trips to Atlantic City have turned to fiscal restraint, as students realize they may have to stretch those loan dollars further than in years past. Dreams of spending splurges will stay dreams, at least for now. An informal and unscientific survey

found that while few students would turn down a Burberry coat, Burberry employees needn't keep the stores open late after the loan rebate checks are distributed.

"I really want a Burberry trench coat, but I don't intend to buy one," 2L Brittany Garmyn said. Instead, Garmyn said she will save her money for food, rent, and textbooks.

Students are focused on paying down higher-interest credit-card debt accrued over the summer months, and on saving for essentials in the months ahead.

"I'm probably not going to splurge on anything, unless paying off credit card debt counts as splurging," 2L Sean Williamson said. Williamson wasn't alone; in fact, rent and credit cards were by far the most popular student responses.

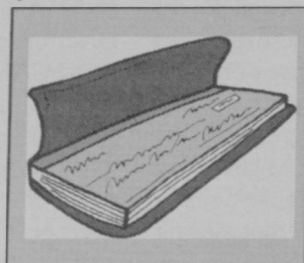
The willingness to bundle up in a less opulent winter coat and save for

necessities isn't surprising in light of this year's tough job prospects. The job market facing law students has become so distressed that The New York Times, in an August 25 article by Gary Shih, dubbed it "the most wrenching job search season in over 50 years." With legal employers cutting back, it's no wonder that both new and returning law students are feeling cautious about spending.

Still, a few students did intend to get themselves a little something. Netbooks, both smaller and cheaper than laptops, have become an increasingly popular choice for students who need or want to replace their computers. Several students said they planned to purchase one this year.

Other splurges were more personal. Saving money struck a chord with 2L Andy Sellars, who said he plans to

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Forget trips to the fashion mall. At GW Law, thrifty is the new black.

Recruiting from page 1.

kets, including the government and public interest sectors.

The market's reluctance to hire for the upcoming summer has been felt by many students at GW who have been disappointed by the number of interviews they received this recruiting season. Several third year law students who worked at large firms over the summer report that

Because of the market difficulty this fall, the CDO is suggesting that students "conduct their own direct write outreach to employers nationwide . . . in order to connect with as many employers as possible."

when they jumped back into the recruiting pool this fall they received only one, or maybe two, interviews – if any.

Likewise second year students such as Joon Song have found that although they put a number of bids out there, they too are only receiving a small smattering of interviews. According to Song and his colleagues' observations, most students who are not in the top 10 or 15% of the class have only gone on 0-3 interviews. Other students, such as second year student Michael Alliance, have found that when they do go on an interview, the recruiting attorney is not really interested in hiring them from the moment they open the door.

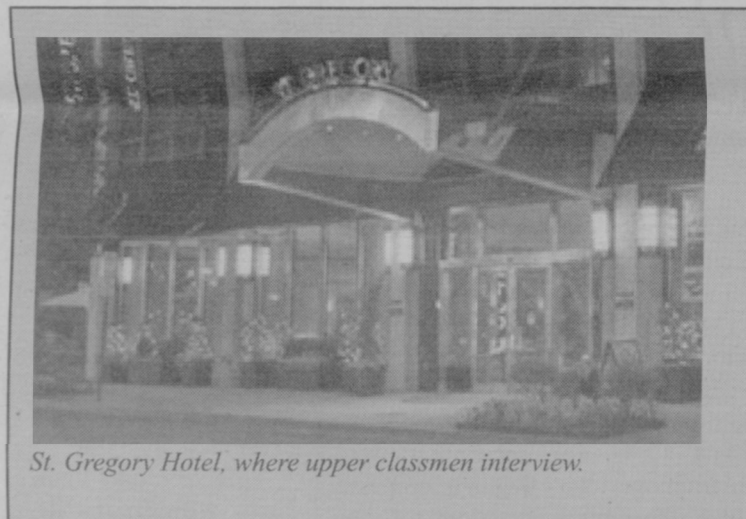
Still, it is not all doom and gloom. Although the number of employer interviews has been reduced, once GW students have gotten their foot in the door, it appears that things are going much better. According to the CDO, "interviews are running smoothly and employers have

been extremely impressed by the quality of candidates that they are meeting with. They are raving about how well-prepared GW students are

for their interviews, compared to other schools. The feedback we have received up to this point has been very positive. Both recruiters and interviewing attorneys alike have said that GW students were truly exceptional this year."

Indeed, Song reports that his FRP interview seemed to go well, and, with the exception of the one firm who was not interested from the start, Alliance agrees that his interviews have been successful. Whether a good interview will be followed by a job remains to be seen, as the Times conveys that many firms are interviewing for slots that they do not intend to fill.

Because of the market difficulty this fall, the CDO is suggesting that students "conduct their own direct write outreach to employers nationwide . . . in order to connect with as many employers as possible." Song has taken this advice and is planning to begin this campaign soon. In addition, he has taken advantage of other recruitment opportunities, such as



St. Gregory Hotel, where upper classmen interview.

the DuPont Legal Minority Job Fair, which he attended earlier this month. This entire day affair brought in firms from throughout the country, including places such as Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Portland – markets that are not represented in the traditional FRP process. Song was able to speak with eight different employers at the fair and states that it "was a good opportunity, especially because I didn't get too many interviews through the traditional process."

"Networking and building connections with employers through receptions, CDO programs, your professors, past and current internships, and other professional outlets will also be extra useful this year."

with employers through receptions, CDO programs, your professors, past and current internships, and other professional outlets will also be extra useful this year."

Caution: Tourism Ahead

By NOLAN KULBISKI
Staff Writer

I love to travel but hate being a tourist. My distaste for tourism stems from an inferiority complex. I grew up in small town Kansas but since age nineteen I've lived in Chicago and London. I'm ashamed to admit that deep down I fear people will see the hayseed I am instead of the urbanite I strive to be. So I've always resisted being lumped in with the masses of fanny pack wearing tourists. That being said, moving to Washington, D.C. is perfect for someone like me. I get to wander, see sites, and meet people all while definitely not being a tourist. I can't be a tourist. I live here!

I try to avoid anything that appears on the covers of travel brochures. I didn't know many Chicagoans who hung out at Navy Pier or Londoners who watched the changing of the guard. Similarly, you'll probably find more Kansans than Washingtonians in line at the Washington Monument. Instead, I've always enjoyed exploring places that locals frequent.

I recently moved in a few blocks from Dupont Circle (the traffic circle at the center of the eponymous neighborhood) and have been getting familiar with this unique park. It's a large circle with trees, benches, and a sizeable double-tiered fountain surrounded by two counterclockwise roads. It's in the middle of a decidedly gentrified neighborhood. A Starbucks, a chic hotel bar, a couple bookstores, and even a Krispy Kreme Doughnuts surround it. Within a few blocks are multimillion-dollar homes and several embassies. But, within the circle itself gentrification holds less sway and a more complicated face of Washington, D.C. emerges. This is the city with a personal income per capita higher than any of the states but with a higher percentage of individuals living below the poverty line than any state except for Mississippi, according to the most recent census. This is a diverse city with a long history.

Every part of this city claims representation in this circle. There's the hipster couple practicing interpretive dance, the gay veteran reading a newspaper, and the older man in a motorized chair visiting with friends. There are people of all ages, races, sexualities, and socioeconomic levels sharing this space. But, while I find the diversity heartening, there isn't much interaction between these groups. There is diversity but there is also a kind of soft segregation.

This is most glaring with regards to the separate community in one corner of the park, the homeless men and women who spend their time near the chess tables. This is a well-known community and the park has even been home to Tom Murphy a top-level blitz chess player who plays and gives lessons in the park and has been profiled in the Washington Post. Of course, the homeless gather here to socialize and for a

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FEATURES

FROM THE STAFF

How I Spent My Summer Vacation



"Two summers and I went to a baseball game - the Indianapolis Indians. The girl in the blue sang the anthem at the game! We went to 3 games this summer. It was great." ~Denise



"My wonderful internship at the Library of Congress this summer left me a lot of time for my favorite hobby: pondering. Here, I'm pondering in Madison Square Park during a beautiful New York summer night. Specifically, I'm pondering about how I'm going to stuff my face with a burger from the Shake Shack." - Yunji Kim



Joon, the Nota Bene's wine columnist, never stopped conducting research over the summer for his articles.



"This summer I realized my very simple life's dream of owning a motorcycle. It's the first vehicle I've ever owned and it is a ton of fun!" - Ryan



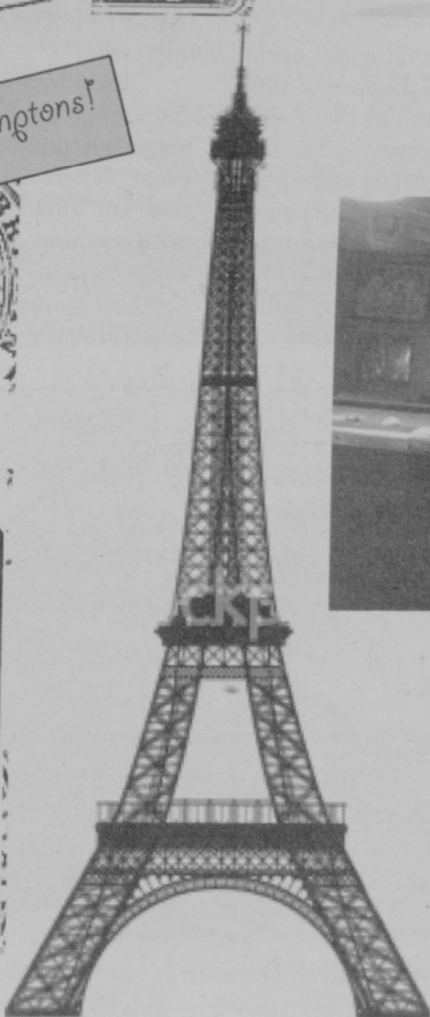
Willow Noonan went deep sea fishing in the Hamptons!



"I spent my summer working in New York, visited Las Vegas, and caused general shenanigans everywhere." ~Katie



"I WENT TO THE BEACH WITH MY BEST FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE AND HAD A GREAT TIME!" - CLARE



Wish You Were Here!

NEWS

Professor Schooner Fights Cancer, One Mile at a Time

By KATIE EARNEST
Editor-in-Chief

Most GW Law people who bike to school do it to save money or get in a bit of exercise before classes. Professor Steve Schooner bikes to school to cure cancer.

He is participating in an event called the LiveSTRONG Challenge, one of several epic bike rides taking place around the country. The Challenge directly benefits the Lance Armstrong Foundation, which according to their website "unites people through programs and experiences to empower cancer survivors to live life on their own terms and to raise awareness and funds for the fight against cancer."

Focusing on cancer prevention, access to screening and care, research and quality of life for cancer survivors, the foundation has raised more than \$250 million since 1997.

The event itself is designed to raise money and support through donations for riders. Professor Schooner is participating in the "flagship ride" in Austin, Texas on October 24-25th. Bike rides range from 10 to 90 miles. He notes: "[W]e're going for the full 90 miles. There's also a 5k run/walk the day before. I plan to do that too with my family."

While many bicycling enthusiasts would find the event physically challenging and rewarding, for Professor Schooner it's personal. A cancer survivor himself, Professor Schooner is no stranger to the disease. His mother and sister battled breast cancer and now Professor Schooner rides in LiveSTRONG to support his father, who is fighting pancreatic cancer. Professor Schooner explained why he

"I'm hoping to raise at least \$20,000, although the sky is the limit. It's truly remarkable how much some folks raise."

chose LiveSTRONG over other fundraising projects: "When my mother was dying (of cancer) a few years back, my sister and I participated in the Avon Breast Cancer walk in D.C. We raised a lot of money, and we found the experience uniquely fulfilling. This time - with my dad's illness - I chose this event because I love to bicycle. I'm an unapologetic Lance Armstrong fan

(I think he's been a wonderfully successful champion for the cause), I like the work of the Foundation does, and the timing was perfect."

He has devoted countless hours to training for the event. "I try to bike to and from school at least a couple of times each week, and, particularly in the (early)

morning, I've been systematically adding in some extra miles. I spend some time on stationary bikes and an elliptical trainer too. Long rides are for weekends, and, whenever possible,



Professor Schooner (right) and his dad (left) in Vietnam
Photo courtesy of Steve Schooner

"I chose this event because I love to bicycle, I'm an unapologetic Lance Armstrong fan (I think he's been a wonderfully successful champion for the cause), I like the work of the Foundation does, and the timing was perfect."

these are group rides."

Though time-consuming, the event has inspired Professor Schooner to find new ways to push his limits. "I haven't biked high mileage for years, so I'm still getting used to my limits. My newest toy is a heart rate monitor, which I find hugely entertaining. I've also been experimenting with some of the new (or should I say "modern-era") energy bars, electrolyte drinks, and recovery products. I used to

Portal from page 1.

more functionality." This is a big plus for all users of the new portal, and will perhaps get more students using the portal.

The last reason for the switch is that there was a need "to implement certain features that would have been difficult to do on the old system." It's not entirely clear what some of those "certain features" are, but the portal does present a whole host of new functionality; giving students, professors, and departments in the law school the power to do things that simply could not be done on the old portal. Briggs explained, "an out of the box feature with the new system is the ability of

While the portal is new, and may take some time to get used to, once students have used it, they should expect a more straightforward process and procedure that is more easy to understand and follow.
- John Sorrenti, SBA President

participating departments within the law school to create content themselves. On the top menu bar, under the item "Department Info" is a list of these departments. Departments can also provide information directly to the new "docket" feature." But what does this mean for law students? "Using these features, departments can now target information to a specific audience. Hopefully, this will let students find information they need more quickly."

Another new feature students should explore is "the ability to be notified via RSS or email of changes to certain information contained within their course sites." Sorrenti also chimed in on the benefits of the new portal, "Students should expect a more streamlined portal that gives them the ability to filter

scoff at "chemicals," but I'm pretty impressed."

Professor Schooner credits the support of his family in helping him juggle his priorities and train for this event. "There never seems to be enough time for long (multi-hour) bike rides with teaching, keeping up with professional activities, family, etc. So we do the best we can, and I'm immensely grateful that my wife is willing to pick

the portal announcements based on category or specific keyword. In addition, while the portal is new, and may take some time to get used to, once students have used it, they should expect a more straightforward process and procedure that is more easy to understand and follow (hopefully)."

Additionally, each course page now lists the classroom where the class is held, provides a student drop box, which is a function that was once almost exclusively used on Westlaw's TWEN site, and has a course calendar, blog, and wiki.

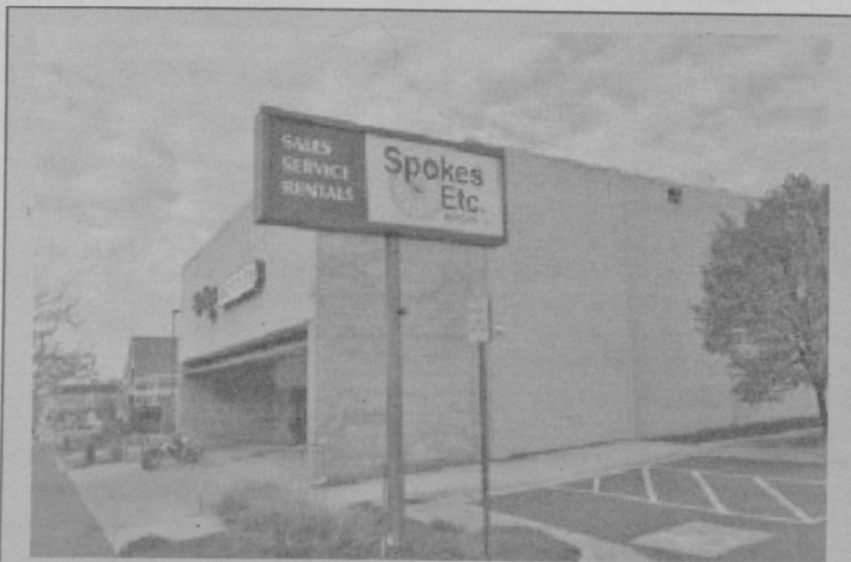
Not only does the new portal provide increased functionality to students and law school departments, but professors and deans running student competitions are also enjoying some of the new portals enhanced features. For instance, Dave Myers, President of the Mock Trial Board discovered recently that Dean Johnson had added him as an "Assistant" to the course page for this fall's internal mock trial competition, Cohen & Cohen. This new functionality allows Myers to view the class roster, email all enrolled students for that course, and post items on the course calendar and in the course documents. It's less functionality than the professors of the course have, but more than regular "enrolled" students. This is a vast improvement over the old portal, where students in authority positions could only be added as regular "enrolled" students and had no extra functions at all.

Although the new portal boasts great new features and functionality, students should be aware that it is still new and they should be patient will the system goes through its growing pains. Briggs explained, "As with any new system, there will be some adjustments to the way things are done, we hope everyone can bear with us during this process." Sorrenti echoed this comment by saying, "While there are likely to be some bugs and kinks to be worked out, hopefully the new portal will be up and running at full speed soon and will provide the students with a better experience than the last one."

up that much more than her 'fair share' of the slack when necessary."

When asked about his fundraising goal, Professor Schooner said: "I'm hoping to raise at least \$20,000, although the sky is the limit. It's truly remarkable how much some folks raise." A local bike shop, Spokes, Etc., donated a new bicycle that Professor Schooner is raffling off through his website - <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevtprj/>. Between August 28th and September 25th, participants have the chance to win a Trek 7100 bike along with either a \$100 gift certificate to Spokes, Etc. and a bike lock, or bike shipping for winners who do not live in the D.C. Metropolitan area. Professor Schooner is also offering consolation prizes including a number of gift certificates to area stores such as Starbucks, Au Bon Pain, Bertucci's, Subway, and Baja Fresh. Professor Schooner encouraged those interested in participating in the raffle to visit his website for more details.

Community members interested in supporting Professor Schooner can make donations through his LiveSTRONG website at <http://austin09.livestrong.org/ss>. Net proceeds from the Challenge directly benefit the Lance Armstrong Foundation.



Spokes, Etc. donated a bike to Professor Schooner's raffle

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for details, visit:

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevtpri>

Donate \$10 (or more) to support the LiveSTRONG Challenge and get a chance to win a new bicycle and/or some other good stuff.



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BENEFITING

LIVESTRONG®

LANCE ARMSTRONG FOUNDATION

The Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) empowers cancer survivors to live life on their own terms and to raise awareness and funds for the fight against cancer. The LAF focuses on cancer prevention, access to screening and care, research, and quality of life for cancer survivors. Join 60 million LIVESTRONG wristband wearers and help make cancer a national priority. Unite and fight cancer at LIVESTRONG.org.

FEATURES

TERENCE G. SCHOONE-JONGEN

*Reversible Errors**It's For the Birds*

Greetings, gentle reader, and welcome to the brand new year of my column, a column dedicated to shining a bright, critical light on areas deserving of scrutinizing attention, but often overlooked. In other words, I'll be spending the year reviewing things that I think deserve a review, whether positive or negative. Let's get down to business.

This past week I voyaged up to Woodley Park and the National Zoo. I like wild animals, so it was a natural enough decision to go there. True, captivity is perhaps not ideal for the critters, but without zoos, our species could very well entirely kill off said critters, so there we are.

Although zoos are a good conservation tool, do not to let them lull you into a false sense of security. These animals are not terribly interested in you looking at them. The Sloth Bear doesn't really want you gawking at him while he licks himself. The tiger would sooner slash your face than pose for your picture. The llama would rather spit at you than prance around for your entertainment (but he'll spit at you regardless of what he wants, admittedly). These beasts may all be aesthetically pleasing, but let's be honest: many of the residents of the zoo

are unfriendly, and more than a few are unrepentant killers.

And this brings me to the Bird House.

In terms of price, the Bird House cannot be defeated—although it can be tied. And indeed, every exhibit at the zoo does tie it. The Bird House does stand apart from many of its competitors in terms of location, however. While many of the houses—such as the Great Ape House, the Reptile House, and the Invertebrate House—are positioned along the main walkway, the Bird House is a bit more secluded; you sort of have to traverse the Asia Trail to get there. Because the Bird House is not readily visible from the primary thoroughfare, this also means that it does not suffer from the rapacious hordes of humans and their young that flock to the chaos that is the Reptile House (or that was the Reptile House last Sunday at about 4:00, anyway) or the pandemonium-wracked Great Ape House (the Great Apes do help generate said pandemonium, however). Even the Invertebrate House attracted larger crowds than the Bird House, but this may have been due to the Giant Octopus feeding that was taking place. Young people love Giant Octopus feedings, after all.

In any event, the small number of individuals at the Bird House rates as a positive factor. So, too, did the fact that, unlike the aforementioned houses, the Bird House featured two areas—one indoor, one outdoor—where zoogoers could hang out in the same space as the birds, without any dividing line between human and avian. Would that there was such a space in the Reptile House—small children should have to learn how to contend with boa constrictors and crocodiles as soon as is possible, in my opinion.

The temperature in the indoor aviary was warm enough so as to be ever-so-slightly uncomfortable, but it was what the birds also needed, so the compromise seemed fair.

It seems that what the birds also needed was human flesh.

As I stood on one of the higher parts of the trail through the indoor aviary, I was able to look down into the lower part. Below me, a mother was pointing out various birds to her young daughter, who was a foot or so away from the nearest birds. I don't recall the exact name of said birds, but Speckled Remorseless Murderer Bird is as good a name as any, and accurate.

The mother was apparently pointing out something about the Speckled Remorseless Murderer to her daughter, who leaned slightly forward. Suddenly, the Speckled Remorseless Murderer darted forward in an attempt to bite and/or peck the young lady's face and/or eyes. The Speckled Remorseless Murderer came up slightly short, but the girl's blood-curdling scream, followed by fitful sobs, left no doubt that in this latest round of humanity versus nature, a member of team nature had gotten the better of a member of team humanity.

The Hitchcockian ambience created by this incident serves as a half-strike against the Bird House, but not a full strike. The Bird House also loses points for the menu, which consisted solely of exotic birdseed that members of the public are not even allowed to try to eat. The only beverage served was drinking fountain water, which was not distinct from any other drinking fountain water in the District, although its taste was less metallic than that of many D.C. drinking fountains.

Out of five possible Giant Pandas, I give the Bird House three, insofar as it is neighbor to only three Giant Pandas.

Psst! How to Avoid Law School Gossip

BY HEATHER BENTON
Staff Writer

Fiction is generally far more interesting than fact. But in law school hallways, fact and fiction alike are both fodder for the law school gossip mill. Reminiscent of high school, the gossip spreads like wildfire and unsuspecting students soon learn that "private" conversations they had in the soft lounge are posted on the Overheard at GW Law Facebook page within mere moments of being uttered. Other students may find that one night's drunken indiscretions become hallway andy news overnight. So how do you keep your name out of law school gossip? This may seem like an impossible task, and in some ways it is, but with the right tools you can make your life significantly easier and less stressful. You can minimize some of the drama if you heed to following tips.

Exercise discretion. In law school the desire to have friends can be so incredibly strong that you feel compelled to tell everyone your secrets. But that friendly classmate you met at orientation is not always destined to be your best friend. As the adage goes "If you have a friend treat him well, but never to him your secrets tell. For one day your friend may be your

foe and out into the world your secrets will go." [sic] While your friend may not turn into a foe, you might find that your friend "accidentally" passes along your informa-

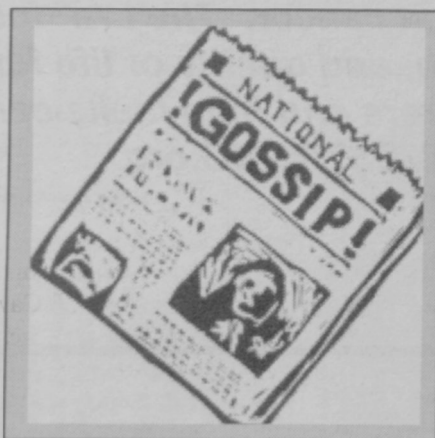
***"If you have a friend
treat him well, but never
to him your secrets tell."***

tion to fellow classmates. So exercise caution which choosing those people with whom you share things. Not every friend needs to be privy to all of your information. Sometimes your whole posse doesn't

need to know you and your skills board partner "knocked boots" the previous night. But there are people in law school that you can trust and once you figure out who they are you can be friends for life. Select your friends carefully and share your secrets even more so. Use discretion when choosing who will

receive what information.

See Gossip on Page 13



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FEATURES

Buying Books? Make the Educated Choice

BY CALEB DULIS
Staff Writer

It is a given that a legal education comes with an extravagant price. As GW students well know, attending law school at a premier institution carries tuition costs in excess of \$150,000. But the expense doesn't end there or even with the price of living in a major metropolitan area like the District of Columbia. Law school students pay high prices for the textbooks and materials that are essential to their studies, and there are few opportunities for relief.

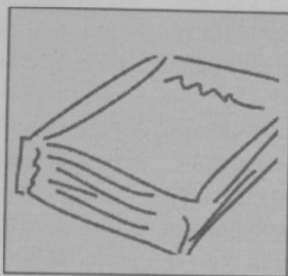
For entering students, the problem is exacerbated both by a lack of familiarity with the available book-purchasing options and also by a lack of time. This year, 1L's first received a complete and official booklist on Wednesday, August 19, the first day of orientation. With classes beginning Monday, the 24th, there was little time to make decisions.

"Given more time I likely would have conducted further research, especially into whether or not it was necessary to purchase the most recent editions of the books on our list," said Judd Lauter. "I will probably conduct more research in the future. I feel like I can get a better deal now that I'm here and I can discuss these issues with other students."

Daniel Bumpus agreed. "I do like the ease of going to the bookstore," he said, citing the ease of finding books crated by section, "but I'll at least look online or at Washington Law Books to

see if I can get a better price."

The short time and high cost, exceeding \$1,000 for some 1L sections, forced students to make difficult decisions. "I had to have my parents front me money to buy my books because student loans do not get disbursed and refunded until after the start of the semester. It was very difficult," said Chanell Autrey, "but it was necessary to get them as soon as possible to complete the first day assignments."



It seems, however, that the actual prices students face are a result more of the cost of the books themselves, rather than any bookstore policy. Lois Austin, of Washington Law Books, says the store sets its prices independently of the University Bookstore, but in most cases, the two stores charge the similar amounts. And both stores' prices are commensurate with list prices on Amazon.com. Amazon, of course, discounts from those prices.

For example, on Thursday, August 27, Amazon offered the 8th edition of *Tort Law and Alternatives*, by Marc Franklin, Robert Rabin, and Michael Green, for a retail price of \$125.19. However, the list price was \$162, which was exactly what both the University Bookstore and Washington Law charged for the book.

See Books on Page 10

Where to get your books?



Amazon.com has the best prices, but availability will vary.

The University Bookstore, located in the Marvin Center at 800 21st St, and Washington Law and Professional Books, at 1900 G St, offer similar prices, but Wash Law's deferred payment option may make it the best choice for students waiting on loan refunds.

The GW Bookstore is online at <http://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10370-1?demoKey=d>.

Washington Law Books can be found at <http://www.washingtonlawbooks.com/index.cgi>.

CLARE CAVALIERO

De Novo Days

Socrates Shmocrates

As the upperclassmen's first week of classes drags along, and we stroll into the law school completely unphased by the environment that surrounds us, I can't help but think of the 1Ls, who are well into their second week of classes and probably sitting in Civil Procedure somewhere freaking out. Undoubtedly, they're tapping their hi-liters, bouncing their knees, and thinking: "What the hell is going on!?!? How am I supposed to get all of this work done in one evening? Everyone is so much smarter than I am. Everyone else gets it!" Well, yet again, young ones, you are wrong. Everyone else is not smarter than you and no, not everyone else gets it. I promise. Some people fake it better than others, but really, you're all like helpless little guppies who have found themselves out of water and are now flailing desperately for oxygen. It might take you a full semester to figure out what exactly is going on, and that's completely normal. Plus, what is interesting about 1L year is that you have no choice in selecting

the classes you must take. Therefore, because the 1L classes encompass such a broad spectrum of the law, someone is going to be better at something than you are, and – that's right! – you are going to be better at something than someone else. It's a give-and-take.

Also, since you have now completed a full week of classes, it is likely that you have witnessed or been a victim of the "Socratic Method." Otherwise known as "cold-calling," which must have earned its name because the poor soul who is called upon inevitably freezes once he is singled out, this process is a quintessential characteristic of law school. It is an invaluable educational tool,

in my opinion, but absolutely terrifying nonetheless. A professor scours the classroom, head on a swivel, eyes slightly squinted, searching for that one, oblivious student who is updating his facebook profile or writing "Mrs. Justin Timberlake" on her notebook instead of listening to the scintillating discussion about Twombly that the professor has meticulously

Because the 1L classes encompass such a broad spectrum of the law, someone is going to be better at something than you are, and – that's right! – you are going to be better at something than someone else.

prepared for class. And then – aha! – the professor has found the perfect, unassuming, candidate. "Mr. Spencer Pratt, what was the holding?" The professor asks. And the student sits there, like a deer-in-headlights, unable to even remember what the word "holding" means (if he ever knew at all), suddenly stricken with

laryngitis, struggling to remember how to speak. The other students squirm in their seats, eyes glued on their classmate, anxious for his answer, some secretly hoping their colleague blows it so they can swoop in like vultures and prove their superiority, others secretly hoping he answers correctly so they don't become the next piece of road-kill. It's a tense moment for all parties involved.

I, however, was one of the lucky ones. My last name is not one that appears easy to pronounce on the first try, and for that reason, I often escaped Socrates' grasp until I offered the pronunciation of Cavaliero or until the end of the semester when the supply of simpler names had been depleted. Unfortunately, one of my favorite people here is not nearly as lucky. Ms. Elizabeth Edwards. She might as well have

See Socrates on Page 10

FEATURES

From D.C. from page 2.

all living, in large part, in Georgetown, Kalorama, and Spring Valley.

Real DC

I did not choose this title; it is well established. I would be remiss to not address that perceptually there is a divide, at times wide and gaping and others barely discernible but still enough to trip anyone up, that supposedly separates "real DC" from much of the rest of it. Is the divide socioeconomic? Is it racial? Is it as I would guess none-so-wrought as all that? Everyone has to decide this on their own.

I will say that DC has an amazing recent history related to the civil rights movement and home rule. Take a walking tour, talk to older residents, and learn. The city's history, often overshadowed by national history, is rich and interesting.

Much of Real DC consists of the City Government; almost the entire eastern half of the city; Prince George's County, Maryland; and many of the local Churches.

Everyone else

Lest we forget, there's also the bureaucracy, countless National associations, the service sector, contractors big and small for defense or for HHS, a budding IT sector, the military installations, the not-for-profit world, the museum community, and the medical community. These individuals tend to live in the suburbs in and out of the beltway. While varied in character, you'll hear about Bethesda, Chevy Chase, McClean, Arlington, Alexandria, Silver Spring, etc. Relegating these areas and the farther out communities to simply the 'burbs really does a disservice to 3.5 million residents of the metro area that make up our 4.1. Many lived in the

district once too, but they moved out for better schools or lower rents.

Those truly forgotten

DC, not unlike many US cities, has a significant homeless population. Most visible every day are the older men panhandling and sleeping on grates while women and children take priority for shelter care. What, if anything, you do to help is up to you, but give it some thought. When faced so regularly with the abjectly downtrodden it may, if secretly, prey upon your heart and mind.

Outsiders

Tourists: our common enemy. Soon you will start to decry bitterly that people are inhibiting you by standing on the left of the escalator on the metro instead of walking. It will not matter who you are or where you are from. Once you realize this simple truth and properly despise their ignorance above all other things big and small, you too will be from DC.

Award from page 1.

past positive developments, and failing to protect women and children, sometimes in worse ways than it ever did before," Meier said. "When I began my work in domestic violence I was more focused on abuse of adult women. But in the past five years or so, we have become much more focused on cases in which children are abused." There is also room for improvement regarding the Supreme Court's recent rulings on the Sixth Amendment which, she noted, "have been devastating to the prosecution of batterers." Professor Meier remains hopeful, however, that her clinical program and DV LEAP work will help remedy such setbacks.

Despite her myriad accomplishments, Professor Meier is quite humble.

"I could not do this work without the fabulous colleagues with whom I work," she revealed. "And having this powerhouse faculty available for consultations on high profile cases is one thing that makes me even happier to be here at the law school." Most importantly, her husband's support, she said, "has been critical to my ability to

Books from page 9.

While, for this book, there are substantial savings, reductions vary from book to book, and students who turn to the internet for lower prices have to wait for their books to arrive and may encounter other problems, as well.

The 5th edition of Joshua Dressler's *Understanding Criminal Law* retails in both local bookstores for \$39 but is unavailable directly from Amazon, and the independent sellers who offer it on the site charge slightly more, even before factoring in shipping charges.

With potential delays and unavailable books and its prices commensurate with other brick-and-mortar stores, many students opt for the convenience of the University Bookstore, which offers, said Store Director Bob Blake, "The right book, at the right price, guaranteed."

However, Austin, who coordinates with the law school on booklists for Wash Law, feels that her store remains the popular choice. "The students come back," she said.

One reason for this may be the store's customer-friendly policies. For books purchased at the beginning of the semester, payment may be deferred for up to a month, after the school releases loan refunds.

In addition, she pointed out the store's buy-back and return policies. Washington Law pays cash for used

books, with the amount varying based on condition. Highlighting and writing in the book will reduce its value. If a new edition has come out, the store offers credit for future purchases. In years past, it would offer cash even in this circumstance, but the present economy makes this impossible, according to Austin. The University Bookstore also buys used textbooks; though, Blake indicated, they have less latitude in which books they re-purchase. All books are scanned to check for wholesaler demand, and generally, the Bookstore will not buy back books for which there are new editions. However, there will occasionally be a need, either on campus or elsewhere. The Bookstore offers up to 50% of the purchase price, depending on condition.

The store accepts returns until the end of the drop-add period, which is similar to the University Bookstore's policy of accepting returns until seven days after the start of the term. According to Blake, they have extended this period for 1L's until seven days after the start of upper-year classes. The deadline for this year is September 8, the last day of drop-add. After that deadline, the Bookstore accepts returns for two days after purchase. But Wash Law also offers store credit on returns for seven days after drop-add ends. "And sometimes," said Austin with a laugh, "we break the rules. We scratch each other's backs."

Russia from page 3.

that Russia likes strong leaders like Putin. Sure, Medvedev is the current president, but everybody knows that the real power rests with Putin. In the minds of most Russians, Yeltsin is associated with everything that is wrong with Western capitalism. On the other hand, Putin, Time Magazine's man of the year for 2007 is associated with everything that is uniquely Russian and thus the correct fit for the country.

While the "Color Revolutions" swept across Georgia and Ukraine in the past few years, Russia has been as fiercely independent as ever. Russia sent navy ships to Venezuela. It co-founded the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization" with China, which might soon include India, Iran, and Pakistan. Russia is clearly on a path to carve out its own role, mostly as a counterpoint to what they perceive to be the Western monolith. While the U.S. media was surprised at President Obama's lukewarm reception by the Russian people and media when he was recently there, I felt that it was in line with Russia's indifference and long-held distrust of anything Western. Nevertheless, if one is to ask many Russians about their views on America, there would be many positive notes as well, but they will always be qualified. In fact, I don't think I had ever spoken to a Russian person who did not qualify praise for the West or for the United States.

After coming to America, I grew up in Brighton Beach, a Russian-American ethnic enclave in Brooklyn, NY. I used more Russian outside of school than English. In elementary, middle, and high school over 50% of students were Russian immigrants or children of Russian immigrants. In my college, Russian students were probably around a third of the population, with almost 95% immigrant or children of immigrants.

Upon coming to law school, I finally entered the real America. In this America, American politics are obviously more important than Russian politics. Additionally, I started law school right around the time of one of the most important presidential elections of all time for the United States.

Amidst the hubbub surrounding the American presidential elections, I could not help but compare the Russian presidential elections that were going on at the same time. While SNL was lampooning Sarah Palin, and Obama and McCain were exchanging their opinions on a variety of issues, I looked across the Atlantic to Russia, where any opposition was stifled, threatened, and jailed. I saw Gary Kasparov, the former Chess champion, try

valiantly, but foolhardily to chip away at the Russian political establishment with Putin at the helm. Though it is a democracy, Russia still struggles with the Western tenets of a free society. With so much power still resting in the hands of one man, it can be little surprise that many Russians feel as though their country is facing an identity crisis: can it embrace modern society and a new role in the world while at the same time hold on to traditions which include striving

to be a superpower and reliance on a strong-willed leader with a great deal of power?

I, too, share in this identity crisis. A few weeks after starting law school, I ran into an LLM student from the Republic of Georgia. We

had a cordial conversation until it turned out that I was Russian, and just a few days before that, Russia and Georgia had just finished fighting a war. He told me, "Oh, you're Russian?" I responded, "Yea, but I'm not like them." I wonder, will there be a time when Russia can be certain in what direction it is going? Is it a democracy, or is it a dictatorship? Is it European, or Asian, or both, or neither? What is Russia? At the same time, I sit here wondering whether there will be a

time when I will be able to say, "Yes, I'm Russian-American," or maybe "Yes, I'm Russian," or maybe I will remain uncertain just like the country which gave me my beginning and keep asking myself, "Who is Vadim?"

Socrates from page 9.

tattooed a bullseye on her forehead. It's just too easy. Really - it's like waiving a piece of raw meat in front of a tiger who hasn't eaten in weeks. Ms. Edwards must have been called on in every single class the first few weeks of school (and, of course, responded with poise and eloquence) while the Setareh Samiis, Ryan Aggergaards, and Anthony Elghossains sat back in their chairs relaxing. It took us a little while to discover this phenomenon, but it still amazes all of us. Of course, some professors choose not to engage in the Socratic method, and others are abnormally good at pronouncing last names, so this is not a fail-proof system by any means. But if your last name has as many letters as supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, you should be able to rest easy for the rest of this week at least.

FEATURES

Fungi-what?

A Word Snob Confronts the Inevitable

By JILLIAN MEEK
Staff Writer

All right. I have a confession to make. I am a word snob. Stretching from my reign as elementary school spelling bee champion, through honors English classes in high school, to eventually majoring in English in undergrad, I always thought I had the premier vocabulary in any given group of people. I would mentally snicker when I heard someone misuse a word, and congratulate myself when I incorporated something polysyllabic and overcomplicated into any given conversation. (Did you see what I did there? I used "polysyllabic" instead of "long word". This is what I mean. It's a problem I have.)

Well, ladies and gentleman, pride goeth before the fall in law school as in life, and I fell pretty hard on my second day of my 1L experience. No, it was not because of the sheer weight of my textbooks, al-

though that may have been a factor. It happened in Contracts. Literally on the first day of class, my professor managed to call into question everything I had ever known to be true about myself and my verbal skills.

Fungible. The word in question was fungible. And no, I wasn't Socraticed and embarrassed in front of the class. It was more subtle, more insidious than that. My Contracts professor just slipped that word into his lecture and moved on. At first I thought maybe this was a legal term that I just hadn't become aware of before. But it didn't sound technical. It simply sounded like an adjective. I turned to the guy sitting next to me, writing "Fungible?" on my notebook in a desperate plea for help, but to no avail.

After leaving class, this word,

this..."fungible," continued to haunt me. I debated whether or not looking it up on Wikipedia would be a statement of defeat. I couldn't even remember the last time I had heard a word I didn't know that wasn't in another language. And then, finally, not unlike a Charlton Heston movie, I had my moment of revelation. Like many Charlton Heston-esque experiences in my life, it may have been painful, but it was

unavoidable.

I'm not good at law school yet. I have no idea what's going on. I now humbly Google any and all unfamiliar words, nostalgic for the days when I was on top of the vocabulary game. Especially because I don't even understand the definition of "fungible", much less the word itself. You win, law school. You win this time.



Clunkers from page 3.

deficits and doesn't like the idea of our tax dollars going straight to China and other lenders. The cost of the government-run health care plan will be critical to its passage, and the main factor in determining its cost will be how many people actually sign up. Estimates have been varied, and some more optimistic than others. One thing is certain about the government's projection of how many people will take part in the plan: it will be wrong. CARS was supposed to last into October on \$1 billion. This money was exhausted in a few weeks, and, despite tripling the budget for the program, it still ended before September. Now imagine the ramifications for health care if at first the government has to triple the projected budget and still cannot sustain the program as originally intended. Cuts will have to come from somewhere, and denying coverage is going to be the likely means to this end.

Another lesson learned is how inefficient the government is. President Obama took some flak for comparing the would-be government plan to the Post Office, an organization known for poor service and coming, hand out, to Congress to save it from drowning in a sea of red ink. Compared to CARS, however, the Post Office is a well oiled machine. In part because of the grossly inaccurate estimates of how many people would seek the Clunkers rebate, the staff running the program was quickly overwhelmed and their computer systems crashed. More troubling, though, is that Congress appointed the NTSB to run the program. The NTSB has absolutely no experience operating a system such as this, and its lack of expertise clearly showed. Many

dealers in the program also complained about the confusing paperwork and guidance associated with seeking the rebates, and about how long it took to get the actual money back (many dealers are still waiting to receive their checks). Again, while inconvenient for people in the CARS program, these deficiencies would be disastrous for health care. Imagine if Congress appointed an understaffed, inexperienced agency to run a program overseeing the health care of literally millions of people. Imagine further that these people

were denied coverage because they misread a single clause in an overwhelmingly long list of rules that only an admin lawyer could decipher, and that they had to wait in a months-long backlog to get the coverage they needed? Not a pretty picture.

Lastly, CARS demonstrates that,

Left or Right, reform or status quo, lobbyists dictate much of what Congress does. Many economists argue that CARS was a poor decision in terms of stimulating the economy because it singles out only one industry and only benefits those with the means to buy a car, whereas blanket tax cuts benefit all industries and can help even the most unfortunate members of our society in this current climate. Why did Congress then decide to favor auto makers above all others? Three letters: U-A-W. The UAW and other unions are always stalwart supporters of Democratic candidates, and with Card-Check floundering, it is likely that the Democrats in Congress felt the pressure from the Union bosses to make sure that their constituents did not

go unassisted. Though Pelosi and other proponents of the government plan have tried to demonize the insurance industry and claimed that those who oppose the plan are in the industry's pocket, the fact is that the big insurers are the ones who stand to benefit most from the current reform packages, and have donated heavily to Democratic candidates in order to see these plans succeed. Government mandates that everyone carry insurance means millions of new customers for the insurers, and the health care "exchange," as well as requirements to cover preexisting conditions and price caps will be cost prohibitive for smaller insurers, forcing them out while the select few largest insurers will sweep up those displaced when these smaller companies fold.

The legacy of CARS shows that the government's heavy-handed way of running things is rarely practical, efficient, or cheap. Given the program's failings, it can be little wonder that so many vehemently oppose the government's intrusion in the health care market.

Practical from page 3.

intent, and the meaning of harmful or offensive contact. Regrettably, I wasn't injured, and my first analysis of a real world situation came to an abrupt halt. On another day, whilst walking to campus, a small dog looked at me a little funny, which got me thinking – what if this little dog attacked me without provocation. Well, if I happened to live in Podunk County in the State of Apex, I might have an idea of where to start.

I've also found some interesting pragmatic applications of the classroom experience with the Socratic method. Learning concepts through conversation is good, but learning the art of deep and intense conversation itself may prove more beneficial. Good conversation can lead to new revelations – a skill

that could be especially valuable in our current contentious political climate. But good conversation can also lead to interesting new knowledge, like the fact that C. Calvin Broadus is Snoop Dog's real name, Bill Gates figures just as prominently in the hypothetical world as the real world, and I should watch

*I have begun to
endlessly analyze
situations I encounter
for their legal questions
and implications.*

more Law & Order.

I've also learned some of the more practical aspects of handling the Socratic method. All of my professors emphasized the importance of participation, both to my own understanding of the material and also because it could help my final grade. All through the week I waited for my first opportunity to participate. Sometimes I waited with some trepidation that I would be asked to answer; sometimes I tried to volunteer myself.

Finally, on the last day in class, I had my opportunity to make an impression. I proceeded to recite what I had rehearsed quickly in my head, which turned out to be entirely wrong. But then I thought back to what one professor said on the first day of class: For the Socratic method to really work, our professors rely on us being wrong. And that may be the most practical lesson I learned in my first week of law school – even when I've answered wrong, I've done something right.

FEATURES

Hearsay

Function: noun
1 : evidence based on an out of court statement
2 : hilarious statements made around GW Law

Overheard:

In Goverment Contracts about the design of the law school corridors - "The architect may have been inedbriated when he designed it."

In Copyright - "The wing that I sit on is like the Alzheimer's wing of the faculty."

In the Hard Lounge - "I'm so glad he graduated - I swear our ranking's going to go up like five spots already."

In Corporations - "Well, I was going to buy the book, but then I found out there's a Nine West in Georgetown and you know THAT plan went out the window..."

In Con Law - "Does Canada have a Constitution?"

In the Hard Lounge - "I could qualify as a good-looking serially-killer!"

At the entrace of the law school, a returning student - "And let the soul-sucking begin..."

Hear something funny in class or around the law school? Email Hearsay at notabene@law.gwu.edu

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Tourism from page 4.

sense of community. But, it also seems like the homeless and the indigent have been pushed off to one side so that others can ignore them while enjoying the rest of the park or while on their way to work. Everyone knows that they're there but no one has to deal with them. Ultimately, I can't help but find parallels to the situation

I recently moved in a few blocks from Dupont Circle (the traffic circle at the center of the eponymous neighborhood) and have been getting familiar with this unique park.

in the larger city. In Washington it seems like those in poverty are frequently pushed off to the side so that the rest of us can go about our business. In a city that is about the practice of democracy and representing the people a large group of its citizens goes largely unnoticed.

However, as I sat in Dupont Circle I noticed something reassuring. Frequently, a professional in a suit or khakis would sit down across a chessboard from a man who might have slept outside the previous night. Two men from different worlds were actually interacting. For at least a little while they were equals, two guys playing chess. The homeless guy or the guy in the nice suit might win this round

unlike in real life, where the guy in the suit always seems to win.

I think for all its sins this is the saving grace of a great city like Washington, D.C. While we live here we are part of something much bigger than ourselves. We can try to hide behind the barriers of class, race, or profession but sometimes in a great city those barriers come down in unexpected ways, sometimes over something as small as a chessboard. During my time Washington, D.C. I am going to look for chessboards in my life. I want to do my small part to bring down the barriers that keep me from understanding other people. It might not be as comfortable as sticking with those who look and think like me but I hope it will be far more rewarding.

Splurges from page 4.

spend most of his loan money on paying rent and his credit card bills. Still, Sellars felt upbeat enough to splurge on at least one item. "I am getting new guitar pedals," Sellars said.

2L Christine Mundia plans to save her most of her loan money for rent, but even on the heels of this year's economic news, Mundia is still willing step up and toe the line for the economy. She will spend some of her money this Fall on "a bunch of new shoes that I probably won't ever wear," Mundia said.

Even notoriously profligate students, this reporter amongst them, are cutting back. And so I find myself joining in a popular summer resolution: to buy only what I need. At least until the

EJF auction.

Unless, of course, Burberry has a sale.

Breasts from page 3.

substantially related means. In 1982, Justice O'Connor explained that requiring such a close relationship between the interest and the means by which it is achieved is to assure that the validity of the classification does not rest on the use of traditional assumptions about the proper role of men and women.

As I write this, I look out my apartment window to see rows upon rows of shirtless men at the pool. I imagine what would happen if the women at the pool were topless (minds out of the gutter – this is a legal issue), and I fail to see what legitimate government interest can only be served in this way. An expected argument, I would assume, is one of safety: if women's breasts were exposed, the rate of sexual violence would increase. I call shenanigans. Seeing as sexual assault is a crime of power, not of passion, it's not as if men, blinded by the boobies suddenly exposed all over town, would become rapists. Women wearing swimsuits, jeans, and more traditional garb are all potential victims of violence. You want a way to further the legitimate government interest of keeping women safe from sexually-based violence? Make it easier to report sexual assaults, increase penalties for both sexual assault and domestic violence (Probation and com-

munity service, Chris Brown? Really?), and create programs designed to teach lawyers and judges that gender-motivated violence is never a woman's fault.

Another potential rationale prohibiting women from choosing to go topless in public would rely on obscenity. Laws mandating women cover their breasts in public are just like laws that require people to wear pants in public to cover their sexual organs, some would argue. This argument fails in one important respect: while no one can deny that penises and vaginas play an important role in sex, breasts do not. Breasts are used to feed one's young; technically, they are not sexual organs, and court opinions that have upheld a woman's right to be shirtless in public have admitted as much. Admittedly, breasts do carry a sexual connotation – a socially created one. Mainstream society's declaration that breasts are sexual is based in large part on a hierarchy that is structured around men's desires, and has systematically subjugated women in order to fulfill those desires (sorry, guys – it's true – but we can work past it, I promise). As O'Connor said in her 1982 opinion, sex-based classifications in the law should not be based on assumptions about male and female roles, and to that end, United States jurisdictions should allow all of their citizens equal protection under the law by no longer prohibiting one sex's behavior while condoning the same behavior in the other.

FEATURES

Gossip from page 8.

Remember that the ears have walls. Yes, there are often 50 or more students sitting in the soft and hard lounge at any given time, but that doesn't mean they aren't listening to what you're saying. The soft and hard lounge should not be used to engage in break-ups, private phone calls about your hypochondria or otherwise strange addictions and behaviors. Consider the guy who once claimed he wasn't loved enough as a child thus explaining his current addiction to sex. You don't want to be that guy. Or girl. Fortunately for him, he was a virtual unknown and his name wasn't attached, but you might not be so lucky. So, choose your conversations carefully. Step outside or speak more quietly. We are in law school and as law students we often have discussions about the craziest and strangest things especially if you are taking professional ethics and responsibility or some other sarcasm inducing course. However, if have information you wouldn't want anyone else to know, save that for another location. You never know when one of the Deans might walk through.

Consider your behavior. If you're okay being known as "that" guy or girl, then you probably don't care about how you act. It may be okay to step on the little man on your way up, but please try to avoid beating anyone up or deliberately engaging in behavior solely meant to berate your classmates, engage in cheating or some similarly unacceptable act. While academic integrity violation

Stress and law school go hand in hand often leading law students to turn to their local bar for some stress relief. However, this stress relief can have greater implications if you don't watch your alcohol intake.

are supposed to be confidential, rumor spreads fast when it happens. Even if you're cleared, you might find your fellow students are privy to details that you didn't even know existed.

Finally, indulge, but don't overindulge. Stress and law school go hand in hand often leading law students to turn to their local bar for some stress relief.

However, this stress relief can have greater implications if you don't watch your alcohol intake. You might find yourself dancing on the top of a bar and trying to lick your own nipple. If that's your thing, then great, but be warned that news as entertaining as this can and has been major news at the law school overnight. So while it is acceptable to indulge yourself, too much indulgence can have undesirable consequences. That undergrad might look quite attractive after 3 or 4 beers, but please stay away lest you should find yourself on juicycampus.com.

It is possible to keep it classy and have fun. You just need to be discerning about the people with whom you share your information, the locations in which you share it and the behaviors you exhibit as a law student. As the school reminded us over and over in orientation, our classmates are our future colleagues and you don't necessarily want the last memory that they have to be of you in a compromised position.

Pulse from page 2.

What can be done to arrest this cycle? When will Palestinians be offered a real and pragmatic alternative to Hamas and Fatah? The person who comes up with the answers to these questions is a shoe-in for a trip to Oslo to accept the Nobel Peace Prize. However, until the time comes when Palestinians have credible leadership, there are some things that Fatah can do to advance the safety and prosperity of the Palestinian people, as well as potentially rejuvenating its image.

The first thing Abbas and Fatah must do is to drop claims that Benjamin Netanyahu's government is "extremist", and come to the negotiating table. While Netanyahu does not as openly and unequivocally support statehood as Palestinians would like, the prior Israeli President from Netanyahu's party unilaterally pulled all troops and Jewish settlers out of Gaza. What Netanyahu believes is something that most pragmatic Israelis do; that a poor, underdeveloped Palestine will continue to be a security risk for Israel whether or not it is a separate state. Thus, his stated goal is to aid in the economic development of the Palestinian Territories in order to remove the aspect of desperation which often leads to extremism. Fatah should be willing to work with Netanyahu to bring about this goal, as the stability it creates would both better the lives of individual Palestinians as well as making Israel more comfortable with pulling back their troops.

Second, Abbas and Fatah need to be willing to accept a piece-by-piece road to independence. Currently, they will only consider proposals which set guidelines for an end result of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. However, such all-or-nothing approaches more often than not lead to nothing. Finding agreement on such emotionally charged and complicated issues as the division of Jerusalem and the Palestinian "right of return" will take a long time and an enormous amount of political capital to achieve. Yet there are other issues, such as where other borders will lie, division of water rights and removal of far flung Jewish settlements, which are more simple to achieve and can be beneficial to Palestinians right away. If such a piecemeal approach is used effectively, and it gets to a point where a stable and self-sufficient Palestinian state is no longer a far off dream, it will be much easier for politicians on both sides to use the political capital required to resolve the toughest issues.

Whether through Fatah, Hamas or some other political creation, Palestinians need to be offered a pragmatic and viable way forward, otherwise, the cycle of desperation and violence will continue, with no end in sight.

Palestinians should not have to believe that the only way to a better life is through violence or emigration. Whether through Fatah, Hamas or some other political creation, Palestinians need to be offered a pragmatic and viable way forward, otherwise, the cycle of desperation and violence will continue, with no end in sight.

Editor from page 3.

tions or commentary, and generally hijack any classroom discussion to the secret dismay of professors and disdain of their peers. You can find songs on YouTube, sections in law school guides, and entries in urban dictionaries about this joke. In fact, GW Law's own Law Revue show had what we referred as the "Year of the Gunner" during my 1L year when we had a glut of numbers poking fun at this particular brand of geek, so many submissions that we tried to scale it back the next year.

No doubt everyone has had the same experience at one time or another. Frazzled and lost in an introductory class – or sleepy and bored – students are startled out of their haze by the constant hand-raising or grating voice of The Gunner, an overly-anxious volunteer whose mission is to kiss up to the professor as much as possible while showing off his or her intellectual prowess with all the subtlety of Liberace in Vegas.

So, it is not surprising that the dividing line comes down hard between discussion participants and those silently snickering in the back of the classroom (or silently eye-rolling in the front). Inevitably, the advice most often given to 1Ls is an adamant warning of "Don't Be The Gunner," lest you risk becoming a law school pariah. And for the rest of their three years, students are relegated to the seesaw-like balance between gunning and silence because, understandably,

no one wants to be THAT GUY (or girl). Or they stop caring about the class and start playing solitaire. Regardless, this leaves professors frustrated, questions unanswered, and perpetuates stale and boring class discussions overrun by a handful of egoists who love to hear themselves talk.

Enough is enough. We need to disarm the "gunner" – pun intended – and get over this tired, annoying phrase.

Make no mistake, first impressions are important. Fitting in, too, is also a basic social tool that people

We need to disarm the "gunner" – pun intended – and get over this tired, annoying phrase.

should learn in order to adapt to diverse situations. So, to all the gunners out there – please stop. For all our sakes. You're ruining it for the rest of us who actually want to ask about something relevant to the discussion at hand without being labeled or snickered at. And for those yet-to-be-gunners, please think before you raise your hand. If it is something that can be answered during office hours or pertains to a personal interest of your's - save it for after class. Remember there is such a thing as a stupid question - one that you already know the answer to.

And those that feel like they're "too cool for school" – grow up. A lot of people say they don't raise their hands because they don't want to be "that guy." Who cares? Since when did worrying about what other people think become a requisite for sitting for any state bar? Look, it's hard enough to get through law school without adding the retro-throwback of high school cliques to the mix. We all pay an exorbitant amount of money to attend this school – to waste a minute of it on tamping down questions for the sake of "coolness" is just stupid. And what's worse is that if you allow other people to intimidate you into silence, you are practically handing them a virtual sack with your tuition money in it and saying "Here you go!" Put your money to good use and make sure you get a worthwhile classroom experience.

A well-respected professor here (who shall remain nameless, lest I be accused of brown-nosing) likes to say, "Be a co-participant in your education." I challenge everyone to go further – take charge of the classroom. Don't understand the topic? Say something. Bored by the professor? Say something. Want to get the gunner in the front row to stop dominating the discussion? Raise your hand and SAY SOMETHING!

There doesn't have to be these two extremes of gunners and cool kids. We need to work for a school that recognizes we're all adults who are here to learn. Let's put down the guns and start having a real discussion.

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FEATURES

My Other Mistress Has a Nice Mug, Too

BY JOON SONG
Columnist

There are two great loves in my life. The first is wine, which wears many different dresses in many different shades, whose beauty often leaves me intoxicated. The second is wine's distantly-related, more robust cousin: coffee. Whereas an evening with wine will usually end with my rolling over and falling asleep, coffee picks up my spirits and puts the spring back in my step. Very different mistresses, indeed.

I know it's a bit early in the year to be deviating from what I'm paid to write about, but I've received many questions over these past two weeks about where to get a decent cup of joe in this city. This can seem like a daunting task—after all, this ain't Berkeley (or Portland or Seattle or New York or even Los Angeles). Most of the suits seem to enjoy their burnt Starbucks; most of the tights-wearing undergrads seem to fancy the venti non-fat sugar-free frappuccino concoctions that are, by the way, so 2001.

But where should the serious coffee connoisseur go for his or her caffeine fix? Where can you enjoy the art of coffee as embodied not only by a fine cup but an exquisite piece of latte art? I suppose it depends on what you are looking for in a coffee shop. Fortunately, DC does have a number of options.

If your primary concern is getting caffeinated conveniently, look no further than Bourbon Coffee (2101 L Street NW). This is a very new establishment, having opened its doors in July. It specializes in Rwandan coffees and allows you the option to get a quick pre-brewed cup or a single-brew pour-over. They have iced coffee sangria, which is iced coffee in which sliced oranges have been soaked, as well as regular iced coffee (which, despite not being cold-brewed is still better than S-Bucks). You also can't go wrong with free Wi-Fi.

Another convenient location is Illy Café (1143 New Hampshire Avenue NW), which is in the Renaissance Hotel and by the Aston. It is staffed by sassy European types in sassy black berets, but they make a mean cappuccino.

Further from campus, you should check out Georgetown's Leopold's Kafe (3318 M Street NW). This is an Austrian café/restaurant which serves food such as excellent steak frites and Kaiserschmarrn, decadent Viennese desserts, wine, German beer, and delightful coffee. Try the kleiner Brauner (basically

a macchiato) which seems the essence of espresso. It's a wonderful place for a Saturday lunch or for a late-night date. Be prepared, however, for the brutally-efficient service which turns off some people but is a plus in my book.

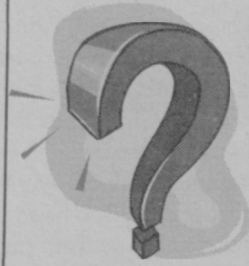
Those of you in Adams Morgan should check out Tryst Coffeehouse, Bar & Lounge (2459 18th Street NW) if you haven't already. It's not really the type of place where you could go and study. Rather, it's a place to chat (loudly) with friends over French presses of coffee or flights of Scotch. Just a warning, though: it gets very loud and very crowded in the evenings.

Now. Let's escape our normal GW haunts and really explore the coffee landscape. If you are willing to take a few Metros to and walk through a few blocks of the Bloomingdale neighborhood you will come across a little gem: Big Bear Café (1700 1st Street NW). The surrounding neighborhood may not be, um, very tony, but inside the Bear's welcoming arms you will find a collection of hipsters that would make Silver Lake, California proud. Get one of their delicious expensive sandwich platters and wash it down with a cup or two of single-origin coffee, which you can choose to have brewed in an artsy

Chemex filter.

Finally—my favorite café in DC. It's not even in Northwest, but Peregrine Espresso (660 Pennsylvania Avenue SE) is worth the trip. Hop on the blue or orange line and go east to the Eastern Market station. I love coming here in the late morning, grabbing a croissant or baguette with butter and a pour-over single-brewed cup of coffee, then heading over for some shopping at the Eastern Market Farmers Market. Peregrine uses beans from Durham, North Carolina's Counter Culture Coffee, one of the most reputable roasters on the East Coast. While at Peregrine, be sure to try any of the offerings from Ethiopia—depending on the specific region, these have unmistakable aromas of blueberry or citrus.

As a closing note, you will be able to get whole or ground beans at Bourbon, Illy, Big Bear, and Peregrine, just in case you need to feed your addiction in the privacy of your own home. If, like me, you decide to brew some coffee in a French press for your friends in the hard lounge, save me a cup and I promise to do the same for you!



Ask Yunji!

BY YUNJI KIM
Columnist

Dear Yunji,

School has barely started, and already I cannot seem to stop eating! What can I do to prevent excessive weight gain?

The Rogue Muncher of the Library

Dear Rogue Muncher,

Never fear, stressing out and studying is highly likely to burn the excess calories you've been ingesting - or so I'd like to believe. It's a favorite theory of mine that the amount of food you crave is directly related to the energy you need to endure mental hardship. In fact, I've come to believe that helping law students survive was the precise reason most comfort foods were invented in the first place. The existence and purpose of wonderful inventions like the Oreo and the fried chicken simply do not make complete sense until you have a Con Law exam looming ahead of you. Like a toddler realizing that spoons are scooping and not for throwing, and that one kid in kindergarten who realizes glue is for, well, gluing and not for sniffing, you too will see that chocolates and marshmallows are not for moderate enjoying but mandatory consumption.

You will have a lifetime after the bar to lose weight. But you only can take that Torts exam once. So don't worry too much, and don't forget that many of the neighboring restaurants can deliver directly to the school.

Sending you many, many bon appétit's,
Yunji

P.S. I would also like to officially state that I am in no way qualified as a nutritionist, dietician, or health professional. In fact, I would like to discourage any inference that I am an individual who hasn't suffered numerous belly aches from eating six strips of bacon at IHOP and inhaling pad thai.

Got a question about what's going around the law school, Foggy Bottom, or the world in general? Email notabene@law.gwu.edu and ask what's on your mind. Yunji has the answer!

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FEATURES

Bar Brief: Lucky Bar

By SET SAMII AND LISA STRAUSS
Columnists

We're back suckas! We know you missed our shining faces and our adorable snark so here it goes again... We promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. As future members of the DC Lawyers Assistance Program, we are proud to present a bi-weekly run-down of DC hotspots. After a 3-month summer hiatus, we are excited to be back to our usual bar hopping shenanigans. For the first Nota Bene of the year, we are doing a review of the most recent addition to the Dupont Circle bar scene, Public Bar.

Before getting into this review, we'd like to introduce ourselves to the new batch of 1Ls at GW Law (everyone else, you, unfortunately, know us by now). Set is a recent graduate of GW undergrad (no she did not wear tights, an oversized white t-shirt, big black sunglasses, or carry a \$5K bag...) and DC's very own former bar wench. You will likely meet her soon as she will probably harass you at Bar Review, which she is now partially in charge of organizing (suggestions welcome!). Lisa, a Chicago/Philadelphia-import, is thrilled to be able to use her newest batch of loan money to buy drinks, not books.

Case: Review of Lucky Bar, the Dupont Circle stalwart and location of the year's first Bar Review. Lucky Bar is an old, cheap friend, and a place we visited a few too many times last year (see our 1L GPAs...yup, you did just read that correctly).

Facts: Lucky Bar was the location of our first ever Bar Review experience, and wow, has it already been a year? Serving cheap drinks for years, Lucky is a Dupont favorite- you can count on this place for either a laidback, booth-drinking night, or a raucous, impromptu dance party kinda night. Despite

visiting this venue several times over the summer, we were excited to return with our law school buds, and teach the new 1Ls the glory that is the tab. We got there around 8:30 and posted up at the bar, waiting anxiously for the tab to begin. And we were not the only early birds...many of our classmates arrived prior to 9 (and understandably so since our loan refund checks weren't available until Friday the 28th).

Issue: Why the outrageous line to get into Lucky? We heard from many a frustrated friend that they waited almost an hour to get in! Why only 2 bartend-

ers at the back bar? There were way too many people for just 2 bartenders (but, those ladies were awesome...and handled the crowd without getting too frustrated or annoyed)! And please, Lucky, put bathrooms on the lower or middle levels. Those stairs of death to the bathrooms have lawsuit written all over them. Tort....

Holding: While Lucky Bar may be a bit too small for the year's first Bar Review, the tight space did force us to talk to everyone (whether they wanted to talk to us or not). The hot and humid night also didn't help the situation,

but that's not really the bar's fault. As always, we enjoyed our night at Lucky Bar- it's hard to not have a good time when classes haven't started yet and there's a tab.

Rule: Lucky Bar will always be our friend. Even when it's crowded and hot, Lucky is a good time...we just wish there was a dance floor and a more centrally located bathroom. Here's to many more successful bar reviews throughout the year!



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NOTA BENE IS A BI-WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL. NOTA BENE SERVES AS A FORUM FOR NEWS, FEATURES & OPINIONS IN THE LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

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ON THE DOCKET

law school events

Monday August 31

Classes begin for 2/3/4Ls

Tuesday September 1

Lecture

Seán Aylward, the Secretary General of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Ireland
4:00-5:30pm, B505

Wednesday September 2

Lecture

Mr. Vito Cozzoli, the Chief of the Legal Office of Italian Chamber of Deputies (Parliament), will give a lecture.
12:00-1:00pm, B505

Monday September 7

Labor Day (no classes)

Tuesday September 8

Last Day of Add/Drop

Thursday September 10

Equal Justice Foundation Thirsty Thursday
4:00-6:00pm, SCC

Thursday September 17

Constitution Day Talk: Order out of Chaos

In honor of Constitution Day, the Jacob Burns Law Library presents a talk by Dean Gregory Maggs on researching the Constitution, featuring rare copies of the Federalist from the Library's Special Collections. (Refreshments will be served.)
4:00-5:00pm, Tasher Great Room, Jacob Burns Law Library

Horoscopes

ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 19)

Have you heard? About the bird? The bird is the WORD!

TAURUS (APRIL 20—MAY 20)

You need a change in your life. Start with your underwear.

GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

You've missed your true calling in life - yak trainer. It's not too late to get started!

CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

You should give your car a name so that people will be more impressed with your ride. I think "Starship Federation of Boogeytown" sounds great.

LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

FYI: the D.C. Real World-ers are on the prowl - you can get a hook-up AND be a on TV!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Your star sign denotes an air of duality in your character. Simply put, you're a Type A weirdo.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 23)

Today's your lucky day - we heard there's an opening in the SBA for "rude jerkface."

SCORPIO (OCT. 24—NOV. 21)

You should consider getting a puppy. Because no one else will love you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

People who are insulted by rude horoscopes are just pansies.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

We once had the eternal optimism of youth, too. Then we started working for Nota Bene...

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

We know what you did on the third floor of Stuart. Ewww!

PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Hey, if this "law thing" doesn't work out, you could always become a professional poker player.

Thursday September 24

Nota Bene Thirsty Thursday

4:00-6:00pm, SCC

IP Benefactor Luncheon- Rothwell Figg

1:30-3:00pm, SCC

Law School Follies

